

JACKSON PARISH SCHOOL BOARD

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To Whom it May Concern:

My name is Mike Staples. I am currently the Supervisor of Technology and Personnel for the Jackson Parish School System. I have been assigned the responsibilities for technology only for the past few years and therefore did not participate in the E-rate reviews for the 2002 and the 2003 years.

In 2004, however, I did participate in the E-rate process as one of the review committee members. Proposals were received from Bayou Internet, Detel Computer Solutions, and SEND Technologies for Internet Service, which were a mix of new and expanded services. The committee met directly with representatives of each vendor, listened to each proposal, and reviewed the written proposals from each of the vendors.

After evaluation of each proposal, it was the decision of the committee and Superintendent Gary Black that the most cost effective proposal was from SEND Technologies. We therefore decided to continue the 2002 contract with SEND Technologies that was already in place.

I was able to locate the multiple vendor proposals from year 2004 and I understand that copies of them were sent to the FCC with the appeal currently under review. Due to changes in job responsibilities within the Jackson Parish School Board and the passage of time, I have been unable to locate the Year 2003 vendor proposal information. It is my belief that this information was sent to the USAC during the selective review process for the 2003 year.

During the time I have been directly involved as the Technology Supervisor and during the time I was indirectly involved as a Supervisor in the Jackson Parish School System, I have never been aware of any vendor attempting to influence our system in any decisions regarding the E-rate Program. All vendor contact has been limited to neutral information provided or proposals presented for our review. Our district seeks only basic telephone service and basic Internet service. We consider all proposals received, and enter into contracts with vendors providing the most cost effective service.

Should you require any additional information which I can supply, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Mike Staples